

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A method for the production of a homogenous, shaped  $\text{SiO}_2$  body of near net shape wherein amorphous  $\text{SiO}_2$  particles comprising relatively large amorphous  $\text{SiO}_2$  particles and relatively small amorphous  $\text{SiO}_2$  particles are electrophoretically deposited from an aqueous dispersion on an electrically nonconductive membrane, the shape and geometry of which correspond to the shaped  $\text{SiO}_2$  body to be produced, wherein the membrane has an average pore size which is larger than the average particle size of the smaller amorphous  $\text{SiO}_2$  particles.